

CLAIMS

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A method of exchanging multimedia data among at least one master and a plurality of catchers over an electronic network of computing devices, the data being exchanged among a plurality of computing devices connected to the network, at least one of the plurality of computing devices performing functionality of an exchange, the method comprising the steps of:
 - preparing by the master of at least one tender for requesting multimedia data of interest and submitting said tender to one or more of the plurality of catchers;
 - acquiring and uploading by the one or more of the plurality of catchers said requested multimedia data to the exchange; and
 - selecting by the master among said uploaded multimedia data by downloading said selected multimedia data from the exchange.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1, further including a step of registering a plurality of users, said plurality of users being indexed as the master and/or as a catcher of said plurality of catchers.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of preparing and submitting said tender further including steps of:
 - 20 creating a data path over the network between the exchange and one of the plurality of computing devices used by the master;
 - presenting said tender to said exchange by e-mail or posting on exchange's web page; and
 - selecting one or more of the plurality of catchers to whom said tender should be 25 routed and routing said tender to the selected catchers.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of routing is performed by e-mailing said tender to the selected catcher or posting said tender in an electronic mail box of the selected catcher on a web page of the exchange.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said step of acquiring and uploading further includes the steps of:

recording said multimedia data by the one or more catchers according to a request outlined in said tender prepared by said master;

creating thumbnails and descriptions for each unit of said multimedia data; and

10 uploading said recorded multimedia data and said thumbnails and descriptions to said exchange.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said step of recording further including the step of directing in real-time by the master of the catcher in recording of said requested multimedia data.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of selecting further including the step of listing all the multimedia submitted in reply to said tender and all the multimedia that was uploaded to the exchange in the past and is equivalent to the tender.

8. The method of claim 7, further including the step of setting a price for each unit of said submitted multimedia data by the plurality of catchers.

9. The method of claim 8, further including the steps of:

20 billing the master with said set price of said selected and downloaded multimedia data; and

crediting the one or more catchers with the price of said selected submitted multimedia data.